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decision shall state that the land will be opened to application by all qualified individuals on an equal-opportunity basis after public notice.

§ 2450.4 Protests: Initial classification decision.

(a) For a period of 30 days after the proposed classification decision has been served upon the parties listed in § 2450.3(a), protests thereto may be filed by an interested party with the State Director. No particular form of protest is required under this subparagraph, it being the intent of this procedure to afford the State Director the opportunity to review the proposed classification decision in the light of such protests.

(b) If no protests are filed within the time allowed, the proposed classification action shall be issued as the initial classification decision of the State Director, and shall be served on the petitioner-applicants and upon grazing permittees, licensees, or lessees.

(c) If protests are timely filed, they shall be reviewed by the State Director, who may require statements or affidavits, take testimony, or conduct further field investigations as are deemed necessary to establish the facts. At the conclusion of such review, the State Director shall issue an initial classification decision, either revised or as originally proposed, which shall be served on all interested parties.

§ 2450.5 Administrative review.

(a) For a period of 30 days after service thereof upon all parties in interest, the initial classification decision of the State Director shall be subject to the exercise of supervisory authority by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of administrative review.

(b) If, 30 days from receipt by parties in interest of the initial decision of the State Director, the Secretary has not either on his own motion, or motion of any protestant, petitioner-applicant, or the State Director, exercised supervisory authority for review, the initial classification decision shall become the final order of the Secretary.

(c) The exercise of supervisory authority by the Secretary shall automatically vacate the initial classification decision and the final Departmental decision shall be issued by the

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Secretary of the Interior and served upon all parties in interest.

(d) No petitioner-applicant or protestant to a proposed classification decision of a State Director to whom the provisions of this section are applicable shall be entitled to any administrative review other than that provided by this section or to appeal under provisions of parts 1840 and 1850 of this chapter.

§ 2450.6 Effect of final order.

(a) A final order of the Secretary shall continue in full force and effect so long as the lands remain subject to classification under the authorities cited in subpart 2400 until an authorized officer revokes or modifies it. Until it is so revoked or modified, all applications and petition-applications for the lands not consistent with the classification of the lands will not be allowed. Any payments submitted therewith will be returned. If the order is revoked or modified, the land will be opened to entry on an equal-opportunity basis after public notice in accordance with applicable regulations for the purpose for which it may be classified.

(b) Nothing in this section, however, shall prevent the Secretary of the Interior, personally and not through a delegate, from vacating or modifying a final order of the Secretary. In the event that the Secretary vacates or modifies a final order within sixty days of the date it became final, any preference right of a petitioner-applicant will be restored.

§ 2450.7 Right to occupy or settle.

The filing of a petition-application gives no right to occupy or settle upon the land. A person shall be entitled to the possession and use of land only after his entry, selection, or location has been allowed, or a lease has been issued. Settlement on the land prior to that time constitutes a trespass.

§ 2450.8 Preference right of petitioner-applicant.

Where public land is classified for entry under section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act or under the Small Tract Act pursuant to a petition-application

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filed under this part, the petitioner-applicant is entitled to a preference right of entry, if qualified. If, however, it should be necessary thereafter for any reason to reject the application of the preference right claimant, the next petitioner-applicant in order of filing shall succeed to the preference right. If there is no other petitioner-applicant the land may be opened to application by all qualified individuals on an equal-opportunity basis after public notice or the classification may be revoked by the authorized officer.

PART 2460—BUREAU INITIATED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Subpart 2461—Multiple-Use Classification Procedures

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Subpart 2461—Multiple-Use Classification Procedures

SOURCE: 35 FR 9564, June 13, 1970, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2461.0-1 Purpose.

Formal action to classify land for retention for multiple use management will be governed by the following procedures

§ 2461.1 Proposed classifications.

(a) Proposed classifications will be clearly set forth on a map by the authorized officer, and on the Land Office records.

(1) Notice of proposed classifications involving more than 2,560 acres will be, and those involving 2,560 acres or less may be, published in the FEDERAL REG-

ISTER and an announcement in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected lands.

(2) Notice of the proposals will be sent to authorized users, licensees, lessees, and permittees, or their selected representatives, the head of the governing body of the political subdivision of the State, if any, having jurisdiction over zoning in the geographic area in which the lands are located, the governor of that State, the BLM multiple use advisory board in that State, and the District advisory board and to any other parties indicating interest in such classifications.

(3) The notice will indicate where and when the map and Land Office records may be examined. The notice will specify the general location of the lands, the acreage involved, and the extent to which the land is proposed to be segregated from settlement, location, sale, selection, entry, lease, or other form of disposal under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws. The notice of proposed classification will specify the period during which comments will be received, which will not be less than 60 days from date of publication of the notice.

(4) The authorized officer will hold a public hearing on the proposal if (i) the proposed classification will affect more than 25,000 acres or (ii) he determines that sufficient public interest exists to warrant the time and expense of a hearing.

§ 2461.2 Classifications.

Not less than 60 days after publication of the proposed classification, a classification will be made by the authorized officer, and a notice of classification published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and recorded in the Land Office records and on a map which will be filed in the local BLM District Office. Such map will be available for public inspection.

§ 2461.3 Administrative review.

For a period of 30 days after publication of the classification in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the classification shall